

Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 February 2006



Daily Highlights

- KWTX reports Texas Governor Rick Perry is dedicating an additional \$3.8 million dollars in support of Operation Linebacker, to fund crime detection and prevention efforts along the U.S.–Mexico border. (See item 14)
- Reuters reports scientists have produced a vaccine against the H5N1 strain of bird flu using a genetic engineering technique that can be easily scaled up for stockpiling the drug to prepare for a pandemic. (See item <u>25</u>)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Production Industries: } \underline{\textbf{Energy; }} \end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials; }} \underline{\textbf{Defense Industrial Base}} \end{tabular}$

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: **Government**; **Emergency Services**

IT and Cyber: Information Technology and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons; General; DHS Daily Report Contact

Information

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1. February 02, Associated Press — West Virginia governor calls for coal mine checks, temporary shutdown of operations. Two mine workers were killed in separate accidents in West Virginia on Wednesday, February 1, prompting Governor Joe Manchin to ask all coal companies to cease production until safety checks can be conducted. David Dye, acting U.S. assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health asked coal mines nationwide to conduct a similar "time out" Monday, February 6, and hold safety and training sessions. Since Monday, January 2, 16 mining—related fatalities in West Virginia have occurred, compared to only three fatalities in 2005. Manchin spokesperson Lara Ramsburg said the governor does not have the

authority to shut down mines that do not comply with his request. Bill Raney, president of the West Virginia Coal Association could not immediately estimate the cost to the industry of ceasing production, but said, "I don't know that it's a subject that needs to be considered at this time...If you don't have a safe mine, you don't have a productive mine." West Virginia is the nation's second largest coal producer, with 153.6 million tons of coal produced in 2004. West Virginia's congressional delegation has introduced legislation that would give trapped miners a better chance of surviving fires, explosions, and cave—ins.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune-review/national/s 41 9736.html

2. February 02, Minneapolis Star Tribune (MN) — New data suggest Minnesota has more potential for wind energy. Minnesota has more wind and more potential to transform it into electricity than previously estimated, state commerce officials said Tuesday, January 31. Large areas of northwestern, western, and southern Minnesota have higher average wind speeds than the last study indicated in 2002, according to a new report. Experts have known for decades that the windiest portion of the state is along the Buffalo Ridge in southwestern Minnesota, and most of the state's wind farms are located there. However, the new data show that wind projects are feasible across a much broader, L-shaped swath of the state, according to Mike Bull, assistant commissioner of the state Department of Commerce. John Dunlop of the American Wind Energy Association called the new study a "quantum leap in science." The latest study, done by WindLogics Inc. used data and modeling to represent the three-dimensional nature of the atmosphere. "That means you can predict quite reliably the wind potential in areas where we don't even have wind resource monitoring stations, such as northwestern Minnesota," Dunlop said. Besides more sophisticated computers, average wind speeds are higher than former estimates because modelers measured the speeds at 262 feet, rather than the previous, shorter height.

Source: http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/local/13772392.htm?source=rss&channel=duluthsuperior_local

3. February 01, Associated Press — U.S. executives to discuss Cuban oil reserves. In the two years since oil reservoirs were discovered off Cuba's coast, Canadian, Chinese, Indian, and Norwegian companies have explored the potentially lucrative Caribbean waters, U.S. corporations have watched the activity less than 60 miles south of Florida's coastline with their hands tied. U.S. oil exploration in Cuban waters is prohibited under a 45-year-old U.S. embargo. "Right on our own border, there is going to be substantial activity in what is probably the last unexplored deposits in the world," said Kirby Jones, president of the U.S.-Cuba Trade Association. This week, American energy executives meet their Cuban counterparts in the first private-sector oil summit between the two countries. The group will explore seven deep-water blocks estimated to contain more than 4 billion barrels in oil and gas reserves. Fidel Rivero Prieto, president of the state oil company, CubaPetroleo, said Cuba would welcome U.S. companies, stating, "...We can begin the process to get to know each other, exchange contact information," he said. Mike Olivier, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, agreed. "...The potential business in this new market for Louisiana companies is significant...This meeting will allow companies from our state to...get in on the ground floor," he said.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/01/AR2006020101394_pf.html

4. February 01, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — FERC: Report to Congress on progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska natural gas pipeline. A report released by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) describing the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska natural gas pipeline and impediments shows that at present, there are three potential projects being seriously considered for bringing Alaskan natural gas from the Alaskan North Slope to lower 48 state markets. These potential projects are the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System (ANGTS); the Trans-Alaska Gas System (TAGS), a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project; and a new pipeline to transport gas from the North Slope of Alaska to the Canadian border. The report states that a successful Alaska natural gas pipeline will have to overcome a variety of significant impediments presented by the tremendous size, scope, and cost of any such delivery system, among other things. Several things must occur before they can move seriously toward developing their respective proposals. First, project sponsors require fiscal certainty regarding Alaska state tax and royalty payments. Second, certain jurisdictional, permitting, and financing issues must be addressed through legislation and regulatory action. Third, reasonable assurances that the project will be economically feasible. The impediments are being addressed by legislative initiative and other governmental action.

FERC Report: http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/alaska-report.pdf

Source: http://www.ferc.gov/

5. February 01, Reuters — Refineries cut production to protect gasoline profits. Oil refiners cut fuel production in some states this week to counter slipping profit margins. Valero Energy Corp., the nation's largest fuel producer, said Tuesday, January 31, it slowed output from its refinery in Ohio by more than 10 percent for economic reasons. Earlier in the week, British energy giant BP slashed fuel production from its refinery in Whiting, Ind., by 10 to 15 percent because of lower profit margins in the region, market sources said. U.S. gasoline prices averaged \$2.34 a gallon Tuesday, nearly 50 cents higher than a year ago. Oil refiners traditionally slow fuel production when profit margins fall into the red —— something that happens when the cost of crude rises too high relative to the selling price of gasoline and heating oil. The National Petrochemical and Refiners Association, which represents several U.S. oil companies, said the slowdown by some refiners is not a threat to the nation's supply and should be seen as a normal seasonal variation. "Inventories in that part of the country are high and pipelines are full," the association said in a prepared statement.

Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/3627131.html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. February 01, Pittsburgh Business Times (PA) — Pennsylvania chemical plant idled by electrical outage, releases toxic vapors. NOVA Chemicals Corp.'s Beaver Valley plant in Monaca, PA, was idled Wednesday, February 1, due to an electrical outage that struck the facility at around 8 p.m. EST Tuesday, January 31. Stephanie Franken, a company spokesperson, said technicians at the plant were still trying to determine the cause of the outage. The plant has a backup power system, but it didn't work for reasons that were not known Wednesday, according to Helen Humphreys, a regional spokesperson for the state Department of Environmental Protection. As a result of the shutdown of the plant's polystyrene production,

10,000 pounds of emissions laced with the toxic chemical styrene were released into the atmosphere. Franken said air quality testing by NOVA staff members determined that the amount of vapor released did not present a health risk to workers or the community. There were no injuries in the incident.

Additional incident information: http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/06033/648635.stm
Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/stories/2006/01/30/dai ly27.html?from_rss=1

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. February 01, Insurance Journal — Financial institutions face high costs for security breaches. At the 2006 American Bankers Association Insurance Risk Management Conference held Sunday, January 29 through Wednesday, February 1, Tracey Vispoli of Chubb & Son, said "For many financial institutions, a network security breach involving the release of confidential customer information is not a matter of if, but when...financial institutions [should] further tighten their data security controls and to prepare for the potentially significant financial cost of this risk." Vispoli explained that new laws in nearly half the states require companies to disclose security breaches to their customers residing in those states. Financial institutions are especially vulnerable to an increasing number of security breaches. The 2005 White & Case National Survey on Data Security Breach concludes that banks and credit card companies are the top two targets of security breaches. According to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, more than 51 million Americans have had their personal data breached in more than 95 incidents since February 2005. A conservative estimate of notification costs is \$30 per customer, according to Vispoli. "While media headlines inform us of high-profile network security breaches, financial institutions of all sizes — from a community bank to a multinational asset management firm — are at risk," Vispoli said.

Source: http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2006/02/01/649 42.htm

8. February 01, eWeek — Big banks ally for data security program. Big banks are confronting technology service providers to learn how their customers' sensitive data is being protected from security breaches. The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday, February 1, reported that Wells Fargo, Bank of New York, Bank of America, Citigroup, J.P. Morgan Chase, and U.S. Bancorp, backed by major accounting firms and a financial services industry group, are adopting common guidelines to which suppliers will be required to adhere. Such service suppliers include telecommunications companies and data—service hosting companies such as IBM. The Financial Institution Shared Assessments Program aims to do away with what is now a considerable amount of wasted resources on the part of financial institutions as they call on service providers for information needed to appease auditors. A survey will assess service providers' security policy, asset control, personnel security, physical security, among other issues. Priscilla Rabbayres of IBM said that IBM considers the financial institutions' efforts to

be of "enormous importance," particularly given the times. Along with increasing leakiness of data repositories comes auditors' interest in them. She said, "Enforcement penalties are now becoming the norm. Everybody's on notice—not just financial services companies. It behooves them to ensure they're appropriately handling confidential information, because it's being targeted."

Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1917900,00.asp

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

- 9. February 02, International Herald Tribune Lessons learned from London explosion. Tim O'Toole, the managing director of the London Underground, who said a terrorist attack last summer was the greatest Underground crisis since the Nazi blitz of World War II, told U.S. transit and rail officials they should avoid the temptation to spend lavishly on new security systems just to reassure the riding public. Instead, he said, spend first on human resources, including constant training and a system to lavish fresh information continually on every employee in the system during a crisis, even if there is a chance some information could fall into the wrong hands. O'Toole was the keynote speaker at the second annual Railway Security Forum and Expo sponsored by the industry magazine Railway Age. Terrorism is an "infinitesimal risk" to rail systems, O'Toole told the room full of transit operators, consultants, suppliers, and federal and local officials. He said transportation officials should remember that an attack is a terrible event and fills the news media for many days. O'Toole said the greatest mistake the London Underground had made after the bomb attacks of July 7 was its "poor performance" in keeping employees fully informed of everything that was happening even if that information is sensitive and could not be released to the public right away. Railway Security Forum and Expo: http://www.railwayage.com/conference3.html Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/02/01/business/transcol02.p hp
- **10.** February 02, Department of Transportation Louisiana receives \$863 million for new bridge and repairs to roads. Louisiana is receiving \$863 million in additional federal transportation funds to repair hurricane—damaged roads, including \$629 million for a new I–10 bridge in New Orleans, Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced on Thursday, February 2. The new funds also cover repairs to the existing I–10 Twin Span bridge between New Orleans and Slidell, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina but reopened ahead of schedule to four lanes of traffic in early January. In addition, some of the money will pay the cost of clearing debris from highways immediately after the storm. Louisiana estimates a new I–10 bridge will cost \$803 million. Additional costs above the \$629 million included for the bridge's construction in this announcement are also eligible for federal emergency relief funding at a later date, Mineta said. Source: http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot1906.htm
- 11. February 02, Chicago Tribune Bad—weather landing aid for O'Hare runs into delay. A safety improvement that will guide pilots to land in bad weather on two runways at O'Hare International Airport has been delayed while authorities make sure light poles, traffic signals and trees bordering the airfield do not block the new equipment's communication with planes, officials said Wednesday, February 1. The Department of Transportation provided \$5.5 million

in funding in 2004, and the system was originally scheduled to begin operating in November 2005, according to the Chicago Department of Aviation. After changes that set back the project several months, the enhanced navigation aids were supposed to begin working in January on two parallel runways that are used by planes landing from the east. But discrepancies surfaced over ground obstructions found in separate land surveys conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the city. The city needs to lower some light poles as much as eight feet, reduce the height of traffic signals by about a foot, and trim or remove some trees over the next month, said FAA spokesperson Elizabeth Isham Cory. Cory said the FAA is still waiting for the city to provide documents certifying the accuracy of its land survey, which showed the obstructions. The new landing system will then be commissioned, she said.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-0602020
338feb02,1,2988115.story?coll=chi-newslocalchicago-hed

12. February 02, Reuters — Tanker runs aground in Alaska, spills oil products. An oil tanker with 360,000 barrels capacity was struck by an ice floe and ran aground while loading oil products at an Alaska refinery on Thursday, February 2, causing a spill, an Alaska state official and the refining company said. "At this time we do not have an estimate as to the amount of product released," said refinery owner Tesoro Corp., based in San Antonio, TX. The Tesoro—chartered double—hulled tanker, the Seabulk Pride, was loading heavy vacuum gas oil and unleaded gasoline from the refinery in Nikiski, Alaska, on the Cook Inlet, the company said. It said the ship was aground about half a mile north of the dock, and that the vessel's tanks were secure. Ice conditions at the time of the accident were "extreme," said Lynda Giguere of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Source: http://c.moreover.com/click/here.pl?j461635080&f=767

13. February 02, Department of Transportation — Grants to fund safer, more efficient runway layout for LAX. Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) will have a safer, more efficient runway layout and hundreds of nearby houses will be quieter thanks to a total of \$56.5 million in new grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta announced on Thursday, February 2. A grant for \$29.5 million will help pay to relocate one of the airport's four runways further to the south, making room for a new taxiway. The new layout for LAX's South Airfield will make it easier for planes to taxi to and from runways and help avoid take off and landing delays at the airport. The runway work also will reduce the number of times aircraft come too close together, known as an incursion, as they make their way to the runway or terminal. Mineta said there were too many incursions at the airport, noting that there were eight in 2005 and seven in 2004. He said that the improvements to the airport's layout should all but eliminate incursions. The other \$27 million will help soundproof more than 500 homes in Lennox, El Segundo and Inglewood.

Mineta's speech at LAY: http://wwww.dot.gov/affairs/minetasp020206.htm.

Mineta's speech at LAX: http://www.dot.gov/affairs/minetasp020206.htm.

Source: http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot1706.htm

14. February 02, KWTX (TX) — Perry dedicates millions more to border security. Texas Governor Rick Perry is dedicating \$3.8 million dollars more to fund crime detection and prevention efforts along the U.S.—Mexico border. Perry announced Thursday, February 2, the funds will support Operation Linebacker, an initiative organized by the 16—member Texas Border Sheriff's Association to enhance law enforcement along the Rio Grande. Each of the 16 border counties will get \$223,000 from the new allocation, to go with the \$376,500 sent in

December. That brings to nearly \$10 million the total Perry has channeled to border security since December. Brewster, Cameron, Culberson, Dimmit, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, and Zapata Counties participate in Operation Linebacker.

Source: http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/2245722.html

15. February 02, Desert Sun (CA) — California airport to have an international flair. Palm Springs International Airport on Wednesday, February 1, introduced an aggressive \$46 million capital improvement project. The airport, which markets itself as "America's Resort Port," plans to grow an international market. Airport officials are proposing to: (1) Build a two–gate, \$24.5 million international terminal to gain a foothold in the charter market; (2) Expand the domestic terminal and ticketing lobby by nearly 40,000 square feet at a projected cost of \$11.4 million; and (3) Build a fully automated, \$10 million explosive detection system in a remote facility to free space for the domestic ticketing expansion and reduce baggage—screening costs by roughly 50 percent. Expansion plans for the airport were announced on the day a new and spacious \$3.3 million security screening center was opened. Richard Walsh, the city director of aviation, said, three other projects are in the works, including a proposed \$18.8 million air traffic control tower.

Source: http://www.thedesertsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060 202/NEWS05/602020310

16. February 02, CNN — Possible tornado slams New Orleans airport. A possible tornado damaged parts of Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and surrounding businesses in pre—dawn hours Thursday, February 2, in suburban New Orleans, said police in Kenner, west of the city. At the airport, the storm caused "significant damage," knocking out electricity for more than seven hours, said airport spokesperson Michelle Duffourc. She said the airport isn't closed but that check—ins are by hand and therefore moving slowly. Most of the damage occurred on Concourse C, she said. Also a roof vent detached and took out a wall at the concourse entry checkpoint, a window at one gate blew out, and a temporary roof patch put up after Katrina blew out. At least five jetways also were damaged, with two of them put out of commission. "We're working on moving everybody over to Concourse B," Duffourc said. "It's just a matter of getting electricity so we can get people checked in and get baggage downstairs." Fortunately, Duffourc said, a nearby Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer park — where airport employees live — was untouched.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2006/WEATHER/02/02/nola.tornado/index.html

17. January 31, San Francisco Examiner — Transit agencies talk anti-terrorism. BART, Muni (San Francisco Municipal Railway), and a host of other Bay Area agencies sat down face—to—face this week to discuss anti-terrorism at a rare training session hosted by the federal government. The program is meant to offer transit agencies nationwide a standardized formula for responding to threats, and was unique in its inclusion of numerous agencies from the entire Bay Area. The two—day seminar brought together security and operations personnel from BART, Muni, Alameda County Transit, Golden Gate Transit, San Francisco Police Department and the Port of San Francisco for training with five security experts. Funded through the Federal Transit Agency and run by Johns Hopkins University, the seminar focuses on such things as assessing vulnerability, looking at intelligence issues and examining public health concerns.

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Postal and Shipping Sector

employees feel about returning to work.

18. February 02, SantaMariaTimes (CA) — Postal center to reopen this weekend. The U.S. Postal Service Distribution Center in Goleta, CA, is expected to be fully reopened by Saturday, February 4, returning area mail delivery to normal schedules. Five postal service employees were killed Monday night, January 30, when 44–year–old Jennifer San Marco opened fire at her former workplace. A sixth victim died Wednesday morning at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. Officials said that some employees would return to work Thursday, February 2, and others Friday, with the huge building returned to normal processing and delivery by Saturday. The thousands of pieces of mail that have been caught in the building since Monday may include some first–of–the–month benefit checks, which should be delivered no later than Saturday, postal officials said. The distribution facility is also scheduled for a complete review of security after a shooting Monday night that left six employees dead. The review is standard after an incident occurs at a site, said Richard Maher, Southern California postal service spokesperson. As the plant reopens, armed postal inspectors will be on hand until further notice, inside and out, Maher said. Officials hope the onsite law enforcement will ease any anxiety

Source: http://www.santamariatimes.com/articles/2006/02/02/news/loca l/news02.txt

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Agriculture Sector

19. February 02, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service — Final rule to relax movement restrictions on barberry plants resistant to black stem rust. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adopting as a final rule -- without change -- a proposed rule amending its black stem rust quarantine and regulations. The final rule allows the movement of clonally propagated, rust-resistant Berberis cultivars to move into or through quarantine areas without a required two-year growth period. A two-year growth period is not necessary for clonally propagated, rust-resistant plants because they are genetically identical to their parental source and naturally rust resistant. This action provides producers and distributors relief from unwarranted restrictions to prevent the spread of black stem rust. All seed-propagated plants and seedlings of Berberis will continue to be restricted from interstate movement prior to reaching two years of age. Seeds, fruit, seedlings, and other seed-propagated materials can yield black stem rust-sensitive plants, which if infected, could spread the disease to protected areas. APHIS is also adding 13 varieties to its list of 126 rust-resistant Berberis species. The addition of these species is based on recent testing to determine rust resistance. Black stem rust is an significant disease of wheat. It has a wide host range including wheat, oats, barley, rye, and barberry.

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/02/barberry.shtml

February 02, Washington Post — Herpes virus scare hits Maryland barn. A sick horse at the Bowie, MD, Training Center has been isolated and its trainer's barn shut down Wednesday, February 1, after the animal began showing signs of possibly having contracted the equine herpesvirus plaguing the state racing industry. Hot Rod Fever had been chronically lame in its hind end but recently began to develop coordination problems in its front legs. Maryland Department of Agriculture veterinarians placed an investigational animal hold order on the barn and took blood and nasal swab samples from Hot Rod Fever for testing. If positive, the horse would be the first infected at Bowie, a former racetrack now used exclusively for training, since the outbreak of the virus was diagnosed January 5 in a horse stabled at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, MD. Equine herpes virus, sometimes called Rhino, is a highly contagious virus that can be transmitted by coughing, sneezing or contact with infected animals or contaminated surfaces up to a distance of 35 feet. The virus causes severe upper respiratory illness and neurological disease. Vaccinations in the horses infected in Maryland have proven unreliable. Equine Herpes Virus information:

http://duke.usask.ca/~misra/virology/stud2004/evd/ehv1page.h tml Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/01/AR2006020102279.html

21. February 01, Rock River Times (IL) — Chronic wasting disease spreading in northern Illinois. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has turned up in Ogle, IL, for the first time. CWD was previously reported in Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, and northern DeKalb counties. The state Department of Natural Resources has confirmed 53 cases in Boone County since it began checking; Winnebago, 42 cases; McHenry, nine cases; DeKalb, six cases; and Ogle, two cases. State biologists have taken samples from more than 2,500 deer in seven northern Illinois counties during the 2005–06 firearm and archery seasons as well as from suspect animals reported to them. This past weekend, hunters in Winnebago, Boone, McHenry and part of DeKalb counties took part in a CWD deer season in an effort to reduce deer densities and the spread of the disease. CWD first turned up in Illinois in November 2002 and now, the state has detected 112 positive cases. The state stepped up its surveillance effort in 2002 after CWD was found in Wisconsin.

CWD information: http://www.cwd-info.org/

Source: http://www.rockrivertimes.com/index.pl?cmd=viewstory&cat=23& id=12362

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Food Sector

22. February 02, USAgNet — U.S. corn tests negative for Bt10 in the European Union. In April 2005, there was a flurry of international activity by anti genetically modified (GM) campaigners when it was discovered that a non–authorized, genetically modified maize line Bt10 had been accidentally shipped as Bt11 maize. It was intended for research purposes in France and Spain, and was only in relatively small quantities. It was subsequently discovered that about 1000 tons of Bt10 maize had reached the European Union in maize gluten feed and brewer's grain feed for animals. Following the accidental contamination in the U.S., the European Commission introduced control measures to ensure that maize imports into the Community were free of Bt10. These involved the testing of all maize gluten feed and brewer's grain feed produced from GM maize in the U.S., with Member States also required to carry out

their own random sampling and analysis of maize samples. The Food Standards Agency has now published the results of tests on 190 samples of imported maize for the presence of unauthorised Bt10 maize. The results showed that all the samples tested were negative for the presence of Bt10 GM maize.

Source: http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=129&yr=2006

23. February 01, Animal and Plant Health Inspection service — U.S., Thailand sign agreement on irradiation use for fruits and vegetables. Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) traveled to Thailand to sign a joint Framework Equivalency Work Plan (FEWP) that paves the way for the use of irradiation to safeguard imported fruits and vegetables against quarantine pests. This signing makes Thailand the first country to reach a mutual agreement with the U.S. regarding the use of irradiation. APHIS has initiated the rulemaking process to allow the importation of six irradiated fruits from Thailand: mango, mangosteen, pineapple, rambutan, litchi, and longan. In reciprocation, Thailand will allow the importation of irradiated U.S. agriculture commodities, such as citrus. USDA's irradiation regulation has been in place since 2002. The regulation recognizes irradiation as an accepted quarantine treatment and sets established guidelines for its use. The regulation requires that the U.S. and each foreign trading country adopt a mutually approved FEWP. In recent years, irradiation treatment has become the most promising, single-treatment quarantine alternative to methyl bromide. APHIS and the International Plant Protection Convention agree that irradiation of fruits and vegetables is a safe and effective form of treatment for the elimination of pests.

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/02/irrdagree .shtml

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

24. February 02, Agence France-Presse — Indian Ocean island epidemic hits 50,000. Some 50,000 people on France's Indian Ocean island of Reunion have been hit by an epidemic of a crippling mosquito-borne disease that has no known cure. Doctors have recorded 45,000 new cases of chikungunya since mid-December, when the epidemic started to gather pace, Philippe Renault — a specialist with a regional epidemiologal cell — told a press conference on Thursday, February 2. The previous toll, given Friday, January 27, had stood at 30,000. France last week drafted 400 extra troops to help fight the mosquitoes that have been spreading the disease across Reunion since March. The volcanic island east of Madagascar, a French overseas department with a population of 760,000, has earmarked \$720,000 to fight the outbreak. Chikungunya information: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/msds172e.html Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060202/hl afp/francereunionhea http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060202/hl afp/francereunionhea http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060202/hl afp/francereunionhea

25. February 02, Reuters — New vaccine offers hope against H5N1 strain of bird flu. Scientists said they have produced a vaccine against the H5N1 strain of bird flu that has protected mice, using a genetic engineering technique that can be easily scaled up for stockpiling the drug to prepare for a pandemic. Suryaprakash Sambhara of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it could be made much more quickly than conventional vaccines and enough doses could be produced to protect people at risk. It is also said to be effective against newer strains of the flu and does not need an adjuvant, or additive, to bolster the immune system response. "This vaccine can protect humans against newer viruses," Sambhara said in an interview Thursday, February 2. "Our goal is to move it forward to Phase 1 clinical trials." Developing a vaccine that can be easily and quickly produced is the best hope of preventing millions of deaths from a flu pandemic, if one does occur. Current vaccines, which can take up to six months to produce, are made in fertilized chicken eggs. But egg—based vaccines are also not useful for stockpiling because a vaccine would have to be specific to the pandemic strain. "This H5 adenovirus vaccine is an egg—independent and adjuvant—independent strategy," Sambhara said.

Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/02/02/news/vaccine.php

26. February 01, Associated Press — Deadly intestinal bacteria on the rise. New Jersey is among the states seeing an increase in deaths from an intestinal bacterial infection that most often strikes older hospital patients who have taken antibiotics. National occurrences are up as well because, officials say, an overuse of antibiotics for other ailments is killing off the good bacteria that used to control the growth of Clostridium difficile bacterium. In New Jersey, the number of deaths attributed to the infection has doubled since 1997. State health officials said Wednesday, February 1, there were 109 deaths attributable to the C-diff infection in 2003, the most recent year for which figures were available. In 2004 there were 25 known C-diff outbreaks in New Jersey hospitals, said Eddy Bresnitz, deputy health commissioner for New Jersey. An outbreak means at least three instances of C-diff infection in one hospital or nursing home setting within a week. The infection has been reported in 15 other states, according the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While most of the worst cases have been seen in patients over age 65 who had been treated in hospitals with antibiotics, public health advocates have been perplexed by cases popping up elsewhere in younger people who had not taken antibiotics.

Clostridium difficile infection information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/id Cdiff.html Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/02/01/ap/health/mainD8FG K9UG0.shtml

27. February 01, Nature — Weather forecasting models could provide early warnings of malaria epidemics. Scientists have unveiled a weather forecasting computer model that can provide up to five months warning of malaria epidemics in the most vulnerable countries. Malaria kills more than one million people each year, and infects 500 million people worldwide. Africa is home to about 90 percent of people affected by malaria, most of whom are part of a constant level of endemic cases. However, malaria epidemics can trigger a significant rise in cases and deaths at the local level, even though they account for only a small percentage of the world's total. Because climate drives both the development of the malaria parasite, and the behavior of the mosquitoes that carry it, weather forecasting can help to predict the likelihood of an outbreak. In theory, an early warning of such epidemics should help governments and aid agencies to deploy anti-malarial drugs and bed nets to the regions most

likely to be hit, along with strategic pesticide spraying. "We can make better use of very limited resources to prevent outbreaks of these epidemics," said Tim Palmer, a climate modeler at the European Center for Medium–Range Weather Forecasts and part of the research team. Source: http://www.nature.com/news/2006/060130/full/060130–8.html

28. February 01, Purdue University — Biologists build better software for viral knowledge.

Insight into the workings of previously inscrutable viruses has been made possible by a team of biologists. With a few lines of computer code, Purdue University's Wen Jiang and his research group have created a powerful new tool for lab research that should allow scientists to obtain high—resolution images of some of the world's smallest biological entities — the viruses. Too minuscule to be usefully observed with many conventional imaging devices, viruses' internal structures must often be viewed with microscopes that require sophisticated computer control to make sense of the tiny objects. "While before we could only see virus parts that were symmetric, we can now see those that have non—symmetric structures," said Jiang. "This software will enable a substantial expansion of what we can see and study. We remain limited to observing those viruses that are identical from one individual viral particle to the next — which, sadly, is still only a small portion of the viral species that are out there."

Source: http://news.uns.purdue.edu/html4ever/2006/060201.Jiang.salmo.nella.html

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Government Sector

29. February 02, Bangor Daily News (ME) — Maine courts underfunded. Progress, problems and plans were the themes Maine's Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley touched on during her speech to outline the court system in her annual address Wednesday, February 1, to the Legislature. "We run the judicial branch on approximately \$15 million less than our frugal neighbor New Hampshire. We have fewer judges and less security than New Hampshire, which itself is 47th in the country," she said. As she has in her four previous addresses to lawmakers, Saufley stressed the pressing need for improved security. She told the joint session of the House and Senate that in the 404 days of screening conducted last year in courthouses around the state, four guns were seized, more than 4,900 knives and sharp objects were found, and illegal drugs were taken from 20 individuals. "Real safety" would cost about \$3 million a year, according to the chief justice. She said that Governor John Baldacci has included in his supplemental budget an increase of \$368,550 to fund seven additional court security officers who would work in multiple counties to improve safety. Security at most courthouses is provided by part—time sheriff's deputies, who are paid by the counties.

Source: http://www.bangornews.com/news/templates/?a=128320

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Emergency Services Sector

30. February 01, Bend (OR) — Oregon governor launches flood—resource Webpage. Governor Ted Kulongoski launched on Tuesday, January 31, a new Webpage that provides a single source for Oregonians who need information about flood—preparation, emergency—response

efforts and conditions in affected communities. "When I visited areas of the state that have endured flood damage during past six weeks, it became clear to me that the people needed accurate information above all else," the Governor said. "So I created a page on my Website that provides an information hub, where people can learn about the recent flooding and find links to local, state and federal resources." The Webpage also provides links to private entities that are available to help, as well as current weather conditions and tips on flood preparation. "The goal of this new webpage is to give Oregonians the tools they need to answer some of their own questions, and connect them with local, state and federal officials who can supply even more information."

Oregon flood preparation information: http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/flood/main.shtml Source: http://bend.com/news/ar_view.php?ar_id=24229

31. February 01, Times and Democrat (SC) — New radios mean better communication for South Carolina county fire departments. After years of airing concerns about the quality of the Orangeburg County, SC's, emergency radio communications and spending about \$60,000 to upgrade the system, the Orangeburg County Fire Commission announced Monday, January 30, that the system is operational. "This represents a major change in the way things are done in our county, especially in our fire district," Orangeburg County Fire System Coordinator Gene Ball said. The county's radios have operated on a one-channel system that receives and dispatches radio communications. The new system adds about six more channels to improve radio communications. Radio communication between departments is often crucial in coordinating a response. The new system will allow departments to narrow communication capabilities with select departments or regions, as well as expand communication capabilities as desired. The system will have an emergency tone system for weather warnings and other wide–scale events. "By it being a repeater system,...we will now be able to hear the mutual aid departments and what is going on at scene before we get there," said Ball. The project required an upgrade of three transmitter towers that will use three different frequencies to prevent communication overlap.

Source: http://www.thetandd.com/articles/2006/02/01/news/doc43e198ac 5b400289862969.txt

32. February 01, North Platte Telegraph (NE) — Nebraska conference focuses on homeland security. Communication is critical when responding to emergency situations. That is why emergency service officials from throughout Nebraska gathered in North Platte this week for a special conference on communication interoperability. The three–day conference began Tuesday, January 31. The event was co–sponsored by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Nebraska Division of Communications. NEMA Assistant Director Al Berndt said this is the first event co–sponsored by the two organizations for the purpose of discussing common interests. Officials from 87 of Nebraska's 93 counties were represented at the event. The conference included breakout sessions on both management and training. In addition, communication vendors were on hand to share information on new technology with conference participants. Berndt said nearly every county in Nebraska is completing system upgrades or is in the planning process to improve interoperability. In addition, statewide benchmarks and a statewide mutual aid frequency are being developed.

Source: http://www.nptelegraph.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16041872&BRD =377&PAG=461&dept_id=531813&rfi=6

February 01, New Britain Herald (CT) — Emergency communication protocol revised following bomb-threat notification blunder in Connecticut. On December 2, a total of four bomb threats were called into various Connecticut offices, the first into the office of Gov. M. Jodi Rell. However, it took about another hour and a half following the third bomb threat until Commissioner James Thomas of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security was informed of the threats. Public Safety commissioner Leonard Boyle said in hindsight he should have contacted Thomas earlier and that additional changes have been made to overall communication protocol in incidents of this kind. Local police officers, fire fighters and town officials never received official notification of the incident either. Connecticut Police Chief Association President Louis Fusaro Sr., Norwich police chief, was asked to and did notify all police chiefs by e-mail, but quite a few police chiefs did not receive the message in a timely fashion since they were out at meetings or on vacation at the time. Boyle said in reviewing the incident afterward, it became clear that first responders should be notified in a more timely fashion, and in the future, police departments will be notified via the COLLECT system, a real-time communication teletype piece of equipment that is distributed directly to dispatch centers.

Source: http://www.newbritainherald.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=1604250 8&BRD=1641&PAG=461&dept_id=10110&rfi=6

34. January 31, Associated Press — Oregon lawmakers look to improve aged emergency communications. Oregon lawmakers want to avoid the sort of breakdown in communications that plagued rescue efforts on the Gulf Coast last year during Hurricane Katrina. The solution they're looking at: A new wireless network for emergency responders. A legislative panel heard warnings Tuesday, January 31, that such a system will be crucial to help state and local responders deal with disasters that could strike Oregon at any time — mainly earthquakes and tsunamis. "In Oregon, our police and firefighters are using communications equipment that dates back 30–plus years," said Marla Rae, spokesperson for the state council that's been set up to oversee this project. In some parts of the state, Rae said, Oregon state troopers often are hindered by communications outages caused by faulty or outdated equipment. The 2005 Legislature approved a bill to create a statewide telecommunications system to allow first responders to communicate directly with each other, anywhere in the state. However, lawmakers left it to the 2007 Legislature to come up the financing for the new system. It will cost from \$350 million to \$500 million over a five—year period, depending on what type of system the state decides to pursue, Rae said.

Source: http://www.gazettetimes.com/articles/2006/02/01/news/oregon/wedore01.txt

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

35. February 01, Sophos — Spammed Trojan horse pretends to come from anti-virus company. Experts at Sophos have warned of a Trojan horse that has been spammed out to e-mail addresses disguised as a message from a Finnish anti-virus company. The Troj/Stinx-U Trojan horse has been seen attached to e-mail messages pretending to come from Helsinki-based F-Secure, and can have a subject line chosen from "Firefox Browsing Problem," "Mozilla Browsing Problem," or "Website Browsing Problem." If the attached file is executed, the Trojan horse will trigger, disabling anti-virus and other security software and

opening a backdoor through which hackers can gain access to infected systems. "It's important to stress that the guys at F–Secure have done nothing wrong. They are just the unfortunate victims of Internet criminals using their name as a disguise in an attempt to spread malware," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at Sophos. Last week, Sophos reported that another version of the Stinx Trojan horse had been distributed posing as a CCTV picture of a university campus rapist. Sophos recommends that companies protect their e–mail gateways with a consolidated solution to defend against viruses and spam, as well as apply an e–mail policy that filters unsolicited executable code at the gateway.

Source: http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/02/stin xu.html

36. February 01, eWeek — Denial—of—service flaw flagged in IE7 Beta 2. An independent security researcher has pinpointed a denial—of—service flaw in Microsoft's brand new Internet Explorer 7 (IE7) Beta 2 Preview just moments after installing the security—centric browser makeover. Tom Ferris said the new browser crashed less than 15 minutes after he started using a homemade fuzz testing tool to poke around for potential security issues. Ferris, known online as "badpack3t," found that specially crafted HTML could cause IE7 to crash because "urlmon.dll" does not properly parse the "file://" protocol. "I've confirmed a denial—of—service at this point, but I'm sure someone malicious could research this some more to control memory at some point to cause code execution," Ferris said. A proof—of—concept demonstration has been published on the Security—Protocols site, along with a screenshot with proof of the browser crash. On the Internet Explorer blog, Microsoft program manager Tony Chor confirmed the bug causes a browser crash but said initial investigations did not find that it was exploitable by default to elevate privilege and run arbitrary code. Even though the IE7 browser is still in beta, Ferris said something as serious as a potential code execution hole should have been found by Microsoft's software engineers.

Proof of Concept: http://www.security-protocols.com/advisory/sp-x23-advisory.txt Internet Explorer blog: http://blogs.msdn.com/ie/archive/2006/02/01/522682.aspx Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1917858.00.asp

37. February 01, Reuters — U.S. accuses cyber-piracy group of "massive" theft. A secretive group of cyber-pirates stole copyrighted software, games and movies in what law enforcement authorities on Wednesday, February 1, termed a "massive" theft for their own pleasure, not profit. The indictments were announced by U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald in Chicago against 19 members of the underground piracy group known as "RISCISO," led by Sean O'Toole of Perth, Australia. Another member of the group implicated in the FBI's investigation, dubbed "Operation Jolly Roger," was Linda Waldron of Barbados. Extradition will be sought for both. As many as 60 members of the group, many of whom work in the computer field and live across the United States, tapped into their tightly controlled computer servers loaded with stolen merchandise that would fill 23,000 compact discs and was valued at \$6.5 million, prosecutors said. Initially, the stolen software was sent to servers set up overseas. The secretive RISCISO group — an acronym for Rise in Superior Couriering, plus the common file format ISO — cracked expiration and encryption codes built into trial software available on the Internet, on computer games, and on first—run movies intended only for reviewers and screeners, prosecutors said.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=domestic
News&storyID=2006-02-01T185830Z 01 N01143981 RTRUKOC 0 US-CR
IME-SOFTWARE.xml&archived=False

- 38. February 01, IDG News Service Government wary of partial BlackBerry shutdown. A court—ordered shutdown of Research In Motion (RIM) Ltd.'s BlackBerry service in the U.S. could hamper response to emergencies, and keeping government users connected while cutting off others might not be feasible, according to a brief filed Wednesday, February 1, by the federal government. NTP Inc. is seeking an injunction against RIM in a lawsuit that alleges the Waterloo, Ontario, mobile e—mail device maker violates U.S. patents held by NTP. That injunction would force RIM to stop selling BlackBerry devices and providing the service in the U.S., except that it would not affect users from federal, state or local government, the regional Federal Reserve Banks, or certain first responder organizations. In a brief filed Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, attorneys representing the government voiced concerns over the feasibility of that plan. "We believe that there are still a number of serious questions to be answered as to how an injunction can be implemented so as to continue BlackBerry service for governmental and other excepted groups," they wrote in the filing. If exempted users couldn't be separated out, the injunction effectively would shut down their use of the service as well, the attorneys said.
 - Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/02/01/75021 HNblackberry gov 1.html
- 39. February 01, Federal Computer Week DHS wants to improve software security. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) wants public comment on two draft documents that are part of a federal program to improve software security, according to the Wednesday, February 1, Federal Register. The documents are part of the Software Assurance Program that DHS created as part of the National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace. The program is designed to reduce vulnerabilities and exploitation of weaknesses to improve software security, particularly in software that critical infrastructure uses. One document, "Security in the Software Lifecycle," aims to help developers and project managers of software applications establish strategies to make sure new software products are more secure. The second, "Secure Software Assurance Common Body of Knowledge," would help colleges and the private sector create curricula to train people in software assurance. The documents and an online comment form are available at the Build Security In Website. Comments on the two documents are due by Tuesday, February 21.

Build Security In Website: https://buildsecurityin.us-cert.gov/portal/

Source: http://www.fcw.com/article92172-02-01-06-Web

40. February 01, Federal Computer Week — New York report recommends tech research center. A new report describing New York's homeland security vulnerabilities recommends the creation of a center where representatives from the public, private and academic sectors can develop innovative technologies. "While the state has made tremendous strides in protecting its citizens since then, we lack a single place where experts in government, industry, the private sector and academia can convene to receive guidance on the state's homeland security needs and policies, and government can receive information about reliable homeland security technology," according to the annual report prepared by the state Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs. The report, "After the Storm," recommends establishing a Center for Homeland Security Innovation as a "nexus" of public— and private—sector resources to develop strategy, policy and technology. The center could provide test beds allowing scientists, business leaders and academic experts to develop next generation technologies and test them in real world settings with end users. The center could also help

develop the state's homeland security industry and spur economic development. Overall, the report, released Monday, January 30, gave mixed reviews to New York's all-hazards preparation, pointing to weaknesses in protecting the Port of New York, New Jersey and Long Island.

Source: http://www.fcw.com/article92166-02-01-06-Web

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT continues to contact and receive reports from federal agencies that have been affected by the CME-24 virus. The CME-24 worm actively disables anti-virus software on a host system and will also overwrite users' data files on the third of every month. This virus affects all recent versions of Microsoft Windows.

The CME-24 worm spreads primarily by harvesting email addresses from files on the local machine and then emailing itself as an executable attachment. It uses subject lines such as "Photos", "*Hot Movie*", and "Miss Lebanon 2006" to entice the user into opening the attachment. As soon as the attachment is executed, the user's system is immediately infected. Infected hosts within a network enclave will also try to spread locally through network shares with weak passwords.

On the third of every month, CME 24 will over write users' files on all accessible drives with the message "DATA Error [47 0f 94 93 F4 F5]". This will happen approximately 30 minutes after the user logins to the infected machine. The files affected by this variant will have the following file extensions: .doc, .xls, .mdb, .md3, .ppt, .pps, .zip, .rar, .pdf, .psd, and .dmp.

Agencies that observe communication from internal machines to the 207.172.16.155 address should investigate further to determine if these machines are infected. Several agencies have reported that the systems that were impacted had anti–virus but were not running the latest signatures.

US-CERT recommend the following course of action:

Ensure that the latest anti-virus definitions are loaded on servers and workstations.

Leverage Internet Content Filtering Solutions to block executable and unknown file types at the email gateway

Setting up an access control list to detect users from browsing to the aforementioned websites/IP addresses. LURHQ provides snort signatures related to the CME–24

worm on their website.

Monitoring of outbound traffic to identify potential malicious traffic or information leaks.

The infected host will also access a website with a web counter. This web counter shows how many machines have been infected, although it is expected that an infected machine may access the website on multiple occasions, thus inflating the number. The original web counter showed consistent growth with over 500,000 infections on Saturday and is now currently showing over 700,000 infections. However, recent web log postings suggest that the number is much closer to 300,000 unique addresses. FBI agents have received log data that resided on the web server, and is sharing the bulk data with US–CERT for analysis.

Please report any validated agency connection to the 207.172.16.155 website during the last 30 days to the US-CERT for further correlation and analysis.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 27015 (halflife),
Target	25 (smtp), 1025 (win-rpc), 135 (epmap), 55557 (), 139
Ports	(netbios-ssn), 4142 (oidocsvc)
	Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it--isac.org/.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

41. February 01, CIDRAP — National summit to address business readiness for flu pandemic.

A national conference scheduled February 14 and 15 in Minneapolis, MN, will give business leaders an opportunity to learn from experts about the risk of pandemic influenza and help figure out how their industries can prepare for it. The meeting, called "Business Planning for Pandemic Influenza: A National Summit," is being organized by the University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. The U.S. and Minnesota Chambers of Commerce are cosponsoring the event. The premise of the conference is that pandemic flu is a major global threat and that traditional business security and disaster—response plans will not be adequate for dealing with it. The conference will include expert speakers and panel discussions on topics affecting all industries, such as legal issues, healthcare, infrastructure, human resources, government support, and risk communication. After the general presentations, participants will gather with others from their own industry to discuss continuity planning.

Sessions are planned for 11 different sectors, such as healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture and food, energy, transportation and warehousing, and construction and real estate.

Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/ne ws/feb0106summit.html

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

<u>DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports</u> – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open—source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport

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Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nice@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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